

THE GENERIC AND SUBGENERIC TYPES OF THE *LYTTIDÆ*
(*MELOIDÆ S. CANTHARIDÆ* AUCT.), (COL)

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It is not the writer's intention in proposing generic types for the blister beetles to engage in a general discussion of the laws of zoological nomenclature, but a brief outline of the principles which have been followed is not out of place.

Types have been justly called the "anchors" of genera. In order to avoid unnecessary changes in nomenclature and to obviate irritating doubt as to the limits of groups, it is necessary that types for existing zoological genera be fixed as rapidly as possible, and that authors of new genera should clearly designate type species of the same. It is to be hoped that systematic workers in special groups will speedily publish the types of all the genera familiar to them.

In my study of the genera of the Coleopterous family Lyttidæ, I have been able, by applying the rules laid down in the International Code,¹ to name type species for many of the genera and subgenera thus far proposed. For various reasons I decline at present to name types for several genera, but subsequent study may render this possible.

Regarding the spelling of generic names, I should perhaps say that I do not at present admit the duty or privilege of a succeeding writer to "correct" the orthography or etymology of the author of a genus. I also regard misprints as having a nomenclatorial status, and believe that they should be listed as synonyms.

In designating generic types, it is necessary to include discarded genera and those existing only in synonymy, as well as those adopted by zoologists, because a species once used as a type cannot subsequently be made to serve for a different genus.

In the earlier literature especially, it is extremely difficult always to determine whether an author intends to indicate a type species or not, but it is important to endeavour to decide this before naming the type, because a type once properly designated in the literature cannot be subsequently changed. It, of course, follows from this that if a type be selected for a genus which has previously had its type species properly named (either by the proposer of the genus or by a subsequent author), the last designation, unless it coincide with the original and valid one, is not to be regarded. I

1. The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, 1905.
December, 1910

hope I have escaped such solecisms, but it is very hard to be entirely certain in a few instances, and I shall be grateful to any one who will point out such instances in my work.

The following quotations from Stiles and Hassall's interpretation of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature² contain the axioms by which I have been principally guided in proposing types for the genera of Lyttidae :

1. I regard "the practice of failing to designate the type species (of genera) as one of the most fruitful sources of confusion in systematic literature." (Page 10.)

2. "Types should be determined for all generic names as soon as possible, since a generic name without a definitely-established type is always an element of danger in both systematic and bibliographic zoology." (Page 11.)

3. "The adoption of a rule by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, to the effect that no new generic name may demand recognition unless the author definitely fixes the type at its original publication is worthy of serious consideration." (Preface by Salmon.)

4. "When, in the original publication of a genus, one of the species is definitely designated as type, this species should be accepted (by the later author who is selecting types) as type, regardless of any other considerations." (Page 30.)

5. "If a genus, without designated type, contains among its original species one possessing the generic name as its specific or subspecific name, either as a valid name or synonym, that species or subspecies becomes *ipse facto* type of the genus." (Page 32.)

6. "If an author, in publishing a genus with more than one valid species, fails to designate or to indicate its type, any subsequent author may select the type, and such designation is not subject to change." (Page 52.)

7. "A genus proposed with a single original species takes that species as type." (Page 25.)

8. In selecting types not subject to the foregoing rules the following principles have been followed :

2. The Determination of Generic Types, Washington, 1905.

(a). "In case of Linnæan genera, select as type the most common or the medicinal species." (Page 56.)³

(b). "If the genus contains both exotic and nonexotic species from the standpoint of the original author, the type should be selected from the nonexotic species, unless such procedure is contraindicated by the original author's intentions." (Page 58.)

(c). "All other things being equal, page precedence should obtain in selecting a type." (Page 56.)

(d). "Show preference to the best described, best figured, best known, most easily obtainable species, or of which a type specimen can be obtained." (Page 56.)

9. I hold "for the adoption of the original published orthography (of generic names), be it good, bad or indifferent (and agree), in proposing that all names incorrectly written should be construed under Article 8k, of the International Code, as 'arbitrary combinations of letters.'" (Page 76.)

10. It seems to me a just ruling that published misprints, etc., should be accorded a definite nomenclatorial status, "and are therefore subject to citation, and should be listed." (Page 78.)

Following is a list of the genera and subgenera of the blister beetles so far as I have been able to select their type species in harmony with the foregoing principles. In the first group I include the genera, unfortunately few, of which the type is unequivocally fixed by original designation (either direct or implied) by the author of the genus. (Rule 4, *suprà*.)

Alosimus Mulsant, 1857, type species *syriacus* Linné, 1758. In the original description of his genus the author mentions by name only one species as coming under it, namely, *syriacus* L., which therefore must be considered as the type of the genus.

Cerocoma Geoffroy, 1762, type species *schoefferi* Linné, 1758. Geoffroy definitely refers to the page and number of Linné's species.

Cystodemus LeConte, 1851, type species *armatus* LeConte, 1851, virtually designated by author of genus.

Gynæcomeloe Wellman, 1910, type species *opacus* G. H. Horn, 1867, formally designated by author of genus.

3. Si genus receptum, secundum jus naturæ et artis, in plura dirima debet, tum nomen antea commune manebit vulgatissimæ et officinali plantæ." *Philosophia Botanica*, 1751, p. 197. This Linnæan rule for botanical names has, by common consent, been recognized as valid in zoology also. (Cf. page 12.)

Iselma Haag Rutenberg, 1879, type species *ursus* Thunberg, 1791, virtually designated, as the species is named by the author in the title of the description of his genus.

Megetra LeConte, 1859, type species *cancellata* Brandt et Erichson, 1832, practically designated by author of genus, as he considered the only other species (*tristata*) as possibly only a variety of *cancellata*.

Micromerus Mulsant et Rey, 1858, type species *collaris* Fabricius, 1787, virtually designated by authors of genus.

Pleuropasta Wellman, 1909, type species *mirabilis* G. H. Horn, 1870, formally designated by author of genus.

Sagitta Escherich, 1894, type species *angusticollis* Haag-Rutenberg, 1880, virtually designated in original description as type of genus.

Triceraniodes Wellman, 1910, type species *stansburii* Haldeman, 1852, formally designated by author of genus.

In the second group, according to the principle of type by tautonomy (Rule 5 *supra*), we may designate :

Proscarabeus Leach, 1832, type species *proscarabeus* Linné, 1758.

Under the next group are listed those cases falling under rule 6 (*Vide supra*). It is a relief in more or less doubtful cases to find types designated by a writer subsequent to the original author of a genus. In the present family we find some such instances as :

Cabalia Mulsant et Rey, 1858, type species *segetum* Fabricius, 1792 (cf. Escherich Verh. k. k. zool.-bot. Gesell., Wien, 1894, p. 45).

Cissites Latreille, 1807, type species *maculata* Swederus, 1787. (Cf. Gahan, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., 1908, p. 199 f.)

Euzonitis Semenow, 1893, type species *sexmaculata* Olivier, 1791 (cf. Escherich Verh. naturf. Verh. Brunn., 1897, p. 103).

Horia Fabricius, 1787, type species *testacea* Fabricius, 1787. (Cf. Gahan, l. c.)

Lagorina Mulsant et Rey, 1858, type species *sericea* Waltl., 1835 (cf. Escherich, l. c., p. 20).

Lydus Megerle, 1829, type species *algericus* Linné, 1758 (cf. Escherich Deutsch, Ent. Zeit., 1896, p. 193).

Lytta Fabricius, 1775, type species *vesicatoria* Linné, 1758. The Linnæan rule (8a *supra*) would have fixed the type of this genus could the Linnæan name *Cantharis* have been retained. Still *vesicatoria* has by several authors (v. Escherich, Ver. k. k. zool.-bot. Gesell., 1894, p. 19) been designated as the type of the genus *Lytta* F.

Enas Latreille, 1802, type species *afer* Linné, 1767 (c.f. Guérin-Ménéville, Dict. pitt. d'Hist. nat., v. 6, I, 1833, p. 224).

Sitaris Latreille, 1802, type species *humeralis* Fabricius, 1775 (= *muralis* Forster, 1771), (cf. Guérin-Ménéville, Dict. pitt. d'Hist. nat., v. 9, I, 1833, p. 69).

Triërانيا LeConte, 1860, type species *sanguinipennis* Say, 1823 (cf. Wellman, Ent. News, XXI, 1910, p. 219).

Zonitis Fabricius, 1775, type species *præusta* Fabricius, 1792 (= *flava* Fabricius, 1775), (cf. Guérin-Ménéville, Dict. pitt. d'Hist. nat., v. 9, II, 1833, p. 593, vid also Escherich, Verh. Naturf. Ver. Brünn, 1897, p. 104).

A considerable number of monotypical genera (Rule 7 *supra*) are to be recorded as follows:

Anisarthrocera Semenow, 1895, type species *batesi* Marseul, 1872.

Apalus Fabricius, 1775, type species *bimaculatus* Linné, 1746.

Apterospasta LeConte, 1866, type species *segmenta*, Say, 1823.

Caloenas Reitter, 1889, type species *pulcher* Reitter, 1889.

Calospasta LeConte, 1866, type species *elegans* LeConte, 1851.

Calydus Reitter, 1896, type species *pulcher* Reitter, 1889.

Causima Lacordaire, 1859, type species *vidua* Klug, 1825.

Cochliophorus Escherich, 1891, type species *reitteri* Escherich, 1891.

Ctenopus Fischer de Waldheim, 1824, type species *melanogaster* Fischer de Waldheim, 1824.

Cordylospasta G. H. Horn, 1875, type species *fulleri* G. H. Horn, 1875.

Corioligiton Marseul, 1879, type species *hilaris* Mars., 1879.

Deratus Motschulsky, 1872, type species *tibialis* Motschulsky, 1872.

Deridea Westwood, 1875, type species *curculionides* Westwood, 1875.

Diaphorocera L. von Heyden, 1863, type species *Hemprichi* L. von Heyden, 1863.

Eletica Lacordaire, 1859, type species *rufa* Fabricius, 1801.

Eupompha LeConte, 1858, type species *fissiceps* LeConte, 1858.

Goëtymes Pascoe, 1863, type species *flavicornis* Pascoe, 1863.

Gnathium Kirby, 1818, type species *francilloni* Kirby, 1818.

Gnathospasta G. H. Horn, 1875, type species *mimetica* G. H. Horn, 1875.

Gynapteryx Fairmaire et Germain, 1863, type species *flavocinctus* Fairmaire et Germain, 1863.

- Henous* Haldeman, 1852, type species *confertus* Say, 1823.
Hoplozonitis Blackburn, 1872, type species *mira* Blackburn, 1872.
Hornia Riley, 1877, type species *minutipennis* Riley, 1877.
Iodema Pascoe, 1860, type species *clarki* Pascoe, 1860.
Leonia E. Duges, 1889, type species *rileyi* E. Duges, 1889.
Leptopalpus Guérin-Ménéville, 1829, type species *rostratus* Fabricius, 1775.
Lydoceras Marseul, 1870, type species *fasciata* Fabricius, 1775.
Lydomorphus Fairmaire, 1882, type species *cinnamomeus* Fairmaire, 1882.
Lydulus Semenow, 1893, type species *albopilosus* Semenow, 1893.
Lyttonyx Marseul, 1876, type species *bilateralis* Marseul, 1876.
Meloclyphus C. O. Waterhouse, 1872, type species *fuscatus*, C. O. Waterhouse, 1872.
Mimesthes Marseul, 1872, type species *maculicollis* Marseul, 1872.
Negalius Casey, 1891, type species *marmoratus* Casey, 1891.
Nomaspis LeConte, 1866, type species *parvula* Haldeman, 1852.
Onyctenus Serville, 1825, type species *sonnerati* Serville, 1825.
Palestra Castelnau, 1840, type species *rubripennis* Castelnau, 1840.
Palestrida White, 1846, type species *bicolor* White, 1846.
Paroenas Kolbe, 1894, type species *imbata* Kolbe, 1894.
Picnoseus Solier, 1851, type species *flavipennis* Guérin Ménéville, 1844.
Phodaga LeConte, 1858, type species *alticeps* LeConte, 1858.
Pleurofempha LeConte, 1867, type species *costata* LeConte, 1867.
Porcospasta G. H. Horn, 1867, type species *polita* G. H. Horn, 1867.
Pseudabris Fairmaire, 1894, type species *tigriodera* Fairmaire, 1894.
Rampholyssa Kraatz, 1863, type species *steceni* Fischer von Waldheim, 1824.
Sitarida White, 1846, type species *hopei* White, 1846.
Sitarobrachys Reitter, 1883, type species *brevipennis*, 1883.
Sitaromorpha Dokhtoureff, 1890, type species *wilkinsi* Dokhtoureff, 1890.
Stenodera Escholtz, 1818, type species *sevmaculata* Fabricius, 1794 (= *caucastica* Pallas, 1781).
Stenoria Mulsant et Rey, 1857, type species *apicalis* Latreille, 1804.
Sybaris Stephens, 1832, type species *immunis* Stephens, 1832.

Tegrodera LeConte, 1851, type species *erosa* LeConte, 1851.

Tetraonyx Latreille, 1833, type species *octomaculatus* Latreille, 1833.

Tmesidera Westwood, 1841, type species *rufipennis* Westwood, 1841.

Triodous E. Duges, 1889, type species *cordilleræ* Chevrolat, 1843
(= *levis* Leach, 1815), 1829.

Zonitoides Fairmaire, 1883, type species *megalops* Fairmaire, 1883.

This name is a homonym of *Zonitoides* Lehm., 1862, a valid genus of Mollusca, and therefore must be changed. I propose the following in its stead:

Zonitopsis Wellm., 1810, nom. nov.

The only Linnæan genus may be fixed according to the Linnæan maxim (Rule 8a *suprà*), as follows:

Meloë Linné, 1758, type species *majalis* Linné, 1758. This is fortunate, as the only other Linnæan species of true *Meloë* was subsequently used by Leach as the type of his genus *Proscarabæus*. The winged insects listed by Linné under the 1758 description of the genus *Meloë* have also, with one exotic exception (*Mylabris cichorii*), since been used as types of the genera *Lytta*, *Alosimus*, *Lydus*, *Cerocoma* and *Mylabris*. Consequently, according to Stiles and Hassall's interpretation of the International code (page 58,⁴ cf., also Rules 8a and 8b *suprà*), there is happily no doubt whatever regarding the type species of the genus *Meloë* Linné, 1758.

The remaining genera may have their types chosen or tentatively indicated mostly under rules 8b, 8c and 8d (*suprà*). Where I prefix a mark of interrogation the citation should be interpreted as only meaning that the species named is, according to my present knowledge, probably the one which should be taken as type. Thus, such genera remain for any author to select their types subsequently. I quote in this connection from Stiles and Hassall,⁵ who say under similar circumstances: "The action on these cases in the present paper is not to be interpreted as *designation of type*, but simply as an indication of the species which, other things being equal, it seems best (so far as data are accessible at the present moment) to select." The few genera not discussed in this paper will be made the subject of a subsequent note.

4. "Any species of a genus which has been selected to serve as type for a later genus is excluded from consideration in selecting the type of the earlier genus."

5. *Op. cit.*, p. 11.

Atenodia Castelnau, 1840, type species? *decimguttata* Billberg, 1813 (= *guttata* Castelnau, 1840).

Apalus Fabricius, 1775, type species *bimaculatus* Fabricius, 1761.

Ceroctis Marseul, 1872, type species *serricornis* Gerstaecker, 1854.

Coryna Billberg, 1813, type species? *hermanniae* Fabricius, 1775.

Criolus Mulsant, 1858, type species? *guerini* Mulsant, 1858.

Decatoma Castelnau, 1840, type species? *lunata* Pallas, 1781.

Epicauta L. Redtenbacher, 1845, type species? *erythrocephala* Pallas, 1771.

Glasunovia Semenow, 1895, type species *caspica* Semenow, 1895.

Isopentra Mulsant, 1858, type species? *megaloccephala* Gebler, 1817.

Macrobasis LeConte, 1862, type species *albida* Say, 1828.

Mylabris Fabricius 1775, type species? *floralis* Pallas, 1781.

Nemognatha Illiger, 1807, type species *chrysomelina* Fabricius, 1775.

Prionotus Kollar et Redtenbacher, 1842, type species *praustus* Kollar et Redtenbacher, 1842.

Pseudomeloe Fairmaire et Germain, 1863, type species? *anthracinus* Fairmaire et Germain, 1863 (= *parvus* Gay, 1851).

Spastica Lacordaire, 1859, type species *flavicollis* Chevrolat, 1838.

Teratolytta Semenow, 1894, type species *dives* Brullé, 1832.

Trochodous E. Duges, 1870, type? *barranci* E. Duges, 1870 (= *lævis* Leach, 1815).

Zonitides Abeille de Perrin, 1880, type? *oculifera* Abeille, 1880.

In conclusion, it may be said that there has been no need to mention pure nomenclatorial synonyms in the foregoing paper, as a *nomen novum* for a genus of course carries with it the name of the type of the genus for which the new name is proposed. It will also be noticed that the genera proposed in Dejean's Catalogues have been ignored except when such may be fairly attributed to a later author. In my forthcoming catalogue of the species of this family I am likewise dropping all citations of the works mentioned, as these names were not accompanied by descriptions. I cannot accord such a name any other status than that of a *nomen nudum*. While there is no objection to mentioning a published *nomen nudum* or a name *in literis* in connection with a description for the convenience of collectors in comparing their material similarly named, yet the conservation of these names in nomenclature serves only to perpetuate confusion.